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MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION AUTHORIZES LAND ACQUISITIONS

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission at its meeting June 19 authorized the acquisition of 1,552 acres of land for additions to three National Wildlife Refuges. The Commission also authorized the leasing of 1,080 acres at one of these refuges. This action of the Commission brings total acquisitions authorized in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956, to 9,531 acres and the total lease authorization in the year to 3,899 acres, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton said.

For the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge on Crab Creek, a tributary to the Columbia River in central Washington, the Commission authorized the acquisition of 586 acres and the leasing of 1,080 acres. This brings the Columbia Refuge total of lands either acquired or in process of acquisition up to 16,179 acres. At Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas an acquisition of 320 acres was approved to bring the total acreage so approved up to 4,180. This refuge, when all lands are acquired, will consist of 21,354 acres.

A 646 acre tract will be acquired for the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado, bringing the total acreage approved for acquisition up to 7,548, or slightly more than half the amount planned.

Each of these refuges has a strategic location in its respective flyway.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission consists of Secretary of the Interior Seaton, Chairman; Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson; Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks; Senator John W. Bricker of Ohio; Senator Thomas C. Hennings of Missouri; Representative August H. Andresen of Minnesota; Representative Frank M. Karsten of Missouri and Arthur A. Riemer, Chief, Branch of Lands, Fish and Wildlife Service, who serves as Commission Secretary.

The Commission operates in accordance with the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 which authorizes appropriations for the establishment of a Federal system of refuges for migratory birds. Appropriations under this Act, together with funds from the sale of Federal duck stamps and from other sources have resulted in the world's most extensive system of bird refuges.